

What is claimed is:

1. In a system in which donor members transfer items to recipient members without receiving economic remuneration from the recipient members, a method for facilitating a transfer of an item from a donor member to a recipient member comprising the steps of:

- 5 (a) receiving information from each recipient member sufficient to classify each recipient member within predefined classes;
- (b) receiving from a donor member information for a particular item to be donated, including a designation of at least one of the predefined classes as an eligible class of recipient members for receiving the particular item; and
- 10 (c) identifying the particular item to recipient members of the at least one eligible class.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising not identifying the particular item to recipient members of the undesigned classes.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying the particular item to recipient members of the undesigned classes after a predetermined period of time in which the particular item remains available for retrieval by a recipient member of the at least one eligible class.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein a predefined class of recipient members comprises charitable organizations.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein a predefined class of recipient members comprises businesses.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein a predefined class of recipient members comprises individuals.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein a predefined class of recipient members comprises schools.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined classes of recipient members are mutually exclusive.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined classes of recipient members are not mutually exclusive.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the items to be transferred are categorized.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein each of the donor members and recipient members must be registered with a facilitator in order to participate in the system.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein the items include at least one of clothes, equipment, electronics, toys, cars, linens, appliances, crutches, eyeglasses, household items, construction materials, furniture, cell phones, fax machines, surplus goods, redistribution items, reallocation items, refurbished items, and recyclable items.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the information is received from each recipient member during registration of the recipient member with a facilitator, the facilitator performing the claimed method.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein the facilitator includes a website on the Internet.
- 5 15. The method of claim 1, further comprising soliciting for a donation applicable to the transfer of the particular item to a recipient member.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the solicited donation includes money to cover at least one of shipping cost, cleaning cost, and packaging cost.
17. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of,
- 10 (a) receiving from a second donor member a pledge applicable to the transfer of the particular item; and
- (b) also identifying such pledge to recipient members of the at least one eligible class.

18. In a system in which donor members transfer items to recipient members without receiving economic remuneration from the recipient members, an Internet method for facilitating a transfer of an item from a donor member to a recipient member comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving information from each recipient member sufficient to classify each recipient member within predefined classes;
- (b) receiving from a first donor member information for a particular item to be donated, including a designation of at least one of the predefined classes as an eligible class of recipient members for receiving the particular item;
- (c) receiving from a second donor member a pledge applicable to the transfer of the particular item; and
- (d) identifying through a website the particular item and the pledge to recipient members of the at least one eligible class.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the pledge includes money to cover at least one of shipping cost, cleaning cost, and packaging cost associated with the transfer of the particular item.

20. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for facilitating a transfer of an item from a donor member to a recipient member in a system in which donor members transfer items to recipient members without receiving economic remuneration from the recipient members, the computer-executable instructions performing the steps of:

- (a) receiving information from each recipient member sufficient to classify each recipient member within predefined classes;
- (b) receiving from a donor member information for a particular item to be donated, including a designation of at least one of the predefined classes as an eligible class of recipient members for receiving the particular item; and
- (c) identifying the particular item to recipient members of the at least one eligible class.